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STRICTLY NO PLASTIC

Guidelines revised to make plastic waste violators pay ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 as fine based on nature of violation

PAGE 2

TRIP & STOP

Bus shelter at Saunders Road is accident waiting to happen — broken slabs, gap in drain pose serious dangers

PAGE 4

BBMP plans to mandate separate licences for all vendors who sell tobacco at an annual fee of Rs 500 — those operating on footpaths will not be eligible for licence

SMOKE 'EM OUT

Spot inspections and fine of Rs 5,000 on first violation planned

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

To tighten control over the sale of tobacco products in Bengaluru, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is set to mandate that all vendors selling tobacco must obtain a specific licence. The health department has already prepared for this initiative, and an official order requiring the licence is expected to be issued in September.

₹The cost of the license will be ₹500. This move aligns with the May 18, 2022, state government gazette notification that outlined terms and conditions for regulating tobacco sales within municipal corporations like BBMP.

Currently, BBMP issues trade licences to about 49,000 traders, but a separate tobacco sales licence will now be required for vendors selling products like beedis, cigarettes, and gutka, at an annual fee of ₹500. It is estimated that around 40,000 vendors in the city sell tobacco products, with approximately 150 to 160 vendors per ward.

Licencing restrictions

Only vendors with a permanent shop space of 100 to 150 square feet will be eligible for the tobacco sales licence. The licence must be registered in the shop owner's name. Street vendors or those operating on footpaths will not be eligible for a licence, as per BBMP officials.

An official said, "The BBMP will issue a notification directing vendors to obtain the necessary licence, with applications to be submitted online starting in the first week of September.

Vendors will have one month to apply, and BBMP officials will visit the shops to inspect

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

SECOND HAND SMOKER. FIRST HAND PATIENT.
EVERY TIME YOU BLOW OUT SMOKE SOMEONE ELSE BREATHES IT IN.
ONE SMOKER. TWO PATIENTS.
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SMOKING IS ALSO INJURIOUS TO OTHER PEOPLE'S HEALTH.

"The BBMP will issue a notification directing vendors to obtain the necessary licence, with applications to be submitted online starting in the first week of September. Vendors will have one month to apply — Official

Aeration plan is up in the air

Aerators have been installed in some lakes, but civic agency's initiative for lakes is on hold due to paucity of funds

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) ambitious project to install advanced aeration systems in 20 lakes across the city has been stalled due to a paucity of funds.

Preeti Gehlot, BBMP Special Commissioner (Lakes), told BM that while the idea was conceived under the Green Bengaluru initiative to transform some of the city's lakes, it is yet to take off.

"We have installed these aerators in a handful of lakes before announcing the project earlier this year. These systems have been working fine in these lakes, although the number of aerators needs to be increased in some water bodies due to the large area they occupy. However, the initiative is on hold due to a paucity of funds," said Gehlot.

The Lake Department had earlier announced that nearly 20 lakes in Bengaluru would receive this aeration system. Water bodies from different BBMP zones were handpicked to install submerged diffused aeration systems to help oxygenate the lower depths of the water columns. The water bodies picked for the project were those developed by BBMP with sufficient

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Kids day out

Calling all little adventurers! House Of Little Monkey is here, bringing you a delightful mix of art, folk, theatre, literature, and fun-filled activities- perfect for kids and families. And the best part? Parents get free entry! Various activities like face painting, pot making, fire show, magic show, puppet show, shadow act, storytelling and health sessions, and so much more are in store at the event. Come, enjoy to your fullest!. **Where: Jayamahal Palace; When: August 24 and 25**

02 Theatre play

Explore the story behind the Taj Mahal. Set in the 21st century, 'Taj Mahal Ka Tender' explores the yearnings of Shah Jahan to erect a tomb in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The plot revolves around the obstacles he faces as he battles through corruption, chicanery, and red-tapism in the government. Several hysterical episodes follow, showcasing the helplessness of the emperor, as he only lives long enough to witness the tender for the monument being passed. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield When: August 24 and 25**

03 Poetry time

The National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) invites you to "Articulating Freedom: An Evening of Poetry and Performance," an event marking 78 years of freedom in India. This multilingual poetry performance by Kaavya Sanje will showcase poems around Indian nationalism and the concept of freedom dating from the 1920s by poets from selected Indian languages.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: August 24, 5:30 pm onwards

Now, you must pay hefty prices for plastic waste

Plastic waste violators will have to pay ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 based on nature of violation: Revised guidelines

Garima Prasher
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The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has come up with revised guidelines for the assessment of environmental compensation to be levied upon the violators of the Plastic Waste Management Rule (PWM), 2016. As per the revised guidelines, the penalty amount ranges between Rs 5,000 and Rs 20,000 per ton of banned items based on the nature of the violation and the violator. An assessment of environmental compensation (EC) has been made based on the costs incurred in plastic waste management by local bodies, including the collection and transportation of plastic waste, the setting up of material recovery facilities, facilities for refuse-derived fuel, and their operations and management.

Penalty details

Producers that manufacture plastic bags from virgin or recycled plastic will have to cough up an environmental compensation of Rs 5,000 per ton of plastic bags that are less than 75 microns in thickness. This penalty will be compounded to Rs 10,000 per ton and Rs 20,000 per ton for second and third violations, respectively. The guidelines also specify penal action such as the seizure of manufactured products and the closure of defaulting units.

Similarly, manufacturers of compostable plastic and biodegradable plastic carry bags that do not obtain certificates from CPCB or do not comply with conditions specified in certificates issued by CPCB will have to pay Rs 7,900 per ton of compostable and biodegradable plastic produced. The compensation will be increased to Rs 15,800 per ton for the second violation and Rs 23,700 per ton for the third violation.

Penalties for single-use plastic items

CPCB announced a ban on the use of 19 single-use plastic (SUP) items on July 1, 2022. With the ban, the central pollution watchdog announced that anyone caught using, selling, manufacturing, distributing, importing, or stocking these products would be penalised.

Production, stocking, and distribution of these prohibited SUP items would lead to an EC of Rs 5,000 per ton, and would be compounded to Rs 10,000 per ton and Rs 20,000 per ton for second and third violations, respectively. Commercial establishments selling banned SUP items will have to pay Rs 2,000 for the first violation, followed by Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 for subsequent violations. A street vendor found selling prohibited SUP items will have to pay Rs 200 for the first violation, followed by Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 for subsequent violations.

'As per CPCB's revised guidelines, every local body shall be responsible for the development and setting up of infrastructure for the segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing, and disposal of plastic waste'

City-based PWM experts say while the revised guideline document appears to be well-researched, there will be no change on the ground unless this can be implemented not just in letter but in spirit too. "Banned plastic items are everywhere across the city, and hopefully the new guidelines will impose stringent action, including closure and hefty penalties imposed on offenders. In this battle against SUP, first to be addressed are producers of banned items," said Odette Katrak, Beautiful Bharat.

As per CPCB's revised guidelines, every local body shall be responsible for the development and setting up of infrastructure for the segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing, and disposal of plastic waste, either on its own or by engaging agencies or producers.

However, in case of a lack of adequate facilities for PWM, a penalty of Rs 5,000 will be imposed on the municipal commissioner or village panchayat, which may extend to Rs 20,000 in the case of continuing default.

Waste generators are also expected to minimise plastic waste and segregate it at the source. Failure to do so will attract a spot fine ranging between Rs 500 to Rs 2,000. In the case of institutional waste generators, the spot fine will be Rs 5,000 for the first violation, leading up to Rs 20,000 for the third and subsequent violations.

Officials confirm swine fever case in Anekal Taluk

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A case of African swine fever has been confirmed at Anekal Taluk in Bengaluru Urban District this week. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences has found that one of the pigs died of African swine fever and is expected to take up measures, including the culling of pigs, shortly.

"A case of a pig dying of African swine flu is confirmed. We are waiting for the higher authorities' permission to go ahead with the culling of affected pigs to prevent African swine flu spreading to other pigs in Anekal taluk," said Dr Chandrasekhar, Bengaluru Urban Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.

Dr Chandrasekhar said that there is no need for panic as the African swine flu will not spread to humans. "We are on the job of taking preventive measures," he said. According to a veterinary doctor, the pig that died of African swine flu was one of the pigs brought from outside. "The lack of awareness or other reasons are responsible for the spread of African swine flu in Anekal taluk. The problem with the people involved in pig farming is that they are not taking measures to quarantine those pigs brought from neighbouring states or from other places. If the pigs that were brought are affected by African swine flu, they will become a danger to other pigs at the piggery farms," the veterinary doctor said.

African swine fever is a highly contagious and hemorrhagic viral disease in domestic and wild pigs, and it can be prevented by spreading to other pigs by separating the healthy pigs from potentially infected pigs and contaminated waste, bedding, etc., and restricting the entry of outsiders and vehicles on the farm premises, he said. Workers engaged in pig farming have to wash their hands with soap before entering the farm and change their clothes, he added.

It may be recalled that two pigs died of African swine fever at two farms in Wayanad district in Kerala last month.

Pedal to the metal: B'luru's bike fever

Bengaluru stands out with one of the highest numbers of two-wheelers in the country. In this bustling city, motorcycles and scooters are more than mere transportation; they embody freedom, practicality, and a lifestyle choice. As more residents turn to bikes, two-wheelers have firmly established themselves in Bengaluru's transport landscape.

Symbol of freedom and convenience

One of the primary reasons Bengalureans flock to purchase bikes is the unmatched convenience they offer. In a city notorious for its traffic jams, bikes provide an efficient solution to navigate congested roads. "Owning a bike has transformed my daily commute. I can zip through traffic and avoid the long waits that come with driving a car. It's not just about saving time; it's about the freedom to go wherever I want without being stuck in a jam. The compact size of motorcycles and scooters makes them ideal for manoeuvring through the crowded streets of Bengaluru. This flexibility is especially appreciated in areas where parking space is limited. Finding parking in busy areas like Brigade Road or Indiranagar can be a nightmare. With a scooter, I can easily find a spot and don't have to worry about parking fees or the hassle of parallel parking", said Avinash Kashyap, an avid biker.

Affordability and economic benefits

Affordability is another key factor driving the popularity of bikes in Bengaluru. Two-wheelers are often more economical compared to cars, both in terms of purchase price and running costs. With rising fuel prices and increasing vehicle maintenance expenses, bikes present a cost-effective alternative. "I chose to buy a bike instead of a car because of the lower cost of ownership. My bike is fuel-efficient, and the maintenance costs are much lower. It's perfect for my budget. Many two-wheelers offer excellent fuel efficiency, which helps residents manage their daily commuting expenses. Considering the traffic and fuel prices, it's a huge relief to save money on fuel", said Sukanya S, a college student.

Thrill of riding

For many Bengalureans, biking is more than just a practical choice, it's a passion. The thrill of riding, the connection with the open road, and the joy of owning a machine that reflects personal style contribute to the enduring appeal of motorcycles. "Riding my bike gives me a sense of adventure. There's something exhilarating about feeling the wind in your face and the control you have over the road. It's not just about getting from point A to point B; it's about enjoying the journey. The city's diverse biking community is a testament to this passion. From casual riders who use their bikes for daily commuting to dedicated enthusiasts who participate in long-distance rides and motorcycle clubs, Bengaluru's biking culture is vibrant and varied. Our club organises weekend rides and events where bikers from all over the city come together. It's a fantastic way to meet fellow enthusiasts and explore new places", said Vikram Singh, a long-distance biker.

> **"It's not about getting from point A to point B; it's about enjoying the journey. The city's diverse biking community is a testament to this passion** –Vikram Singh, biker

Influence of social media and lifestyle trends

Social media and lifestyle trends have also played a significant role in boosting the popularity of bikes in Bengaluru. Platforms like Instagram and YouTube are filled with content featuring stylish bikes, riding tips, and motorcycle culture, which has sparked interest among young residents. "I follow several biking influencers on social media, and their posts inspired me to buy my bike. Seeing the cool customisations and the adventures they go on made me want to be part of that world. Motorcycle manufacturers and dealers have recognised this trend and have tailored their offerings to cater to the growing demand. With a wide range of models available, there's a bike for every taste and preference. As Bengaluru continues to evolve, the love for bikes among its residents is likely to remain strong. The combination of convenience, affordability, and the thrill of riding ensures that motorcycles and scooters will continue to be a popular choice," said Neha Reddy, a college student.

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Bus stop blues: Broken tiles and missing slabs

(1) The pathetic condition of the bus shelter near Coles Park on Saunders Road; (2) The name board with wrong spelling; (3) Missing slabs and broken tiles on the footpath

Citizens call for repairs to unsafe shelter and footpath near Coles Park; area remains neglected, posing risks to commuters and pedestrians

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Caution is needed while waiting for Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses on Saunders Road near Coles Park in Pulakeshinagar Assembly constituency. The bus shelter, which is both dirty and hazardous, poses a risk to unsuspecting commuters. Despite Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike spending on crossroad name boards, the bus shelter remains neglected, becoming an eyesore and a danger, particularly for senior citizens and children.

Citizens and BMTC commuters are urging BBMP authorities and elected representatives to address the issue, noting that the problem remains unresolved despite repeated reminders. "I urge BBMP authorities to fix this issue without any delay. I think the bus shelter has been in this pathetic and poor condition for more than a year. It will be a great help for BMTC commuters and school children if the authorities address this problem," said Mohammed Khan, a resident waiting at the bus stop for a BMTC bus.

Most tiles on the bus shelter floor are either missing or broken, making it unsafe for pedestrians and visitors to Coles Park. "Pedestrians, who want to walk on the footpath-cum-drain, have to be cautious. Some of the slabs on the footpath are missing. It is quite astonishing to come across the negligence of the authorities concerned. It will benefit the BMTC commuters and pedestrians if the authorities do the needful," said Fayaz Khan, a resident. Purushotham V, a resident criticises BBMP authorities and elected representatives for neglecting the footpath and bus shelter used by hundreds of school children, which are in poor condition. "I am mortified to come across the pathetic condition of the bus shelter. I urge the Deputy Chief Minister, who is in charge of the development of Bengaluru, to visit this area. Not a single footpath is in good condition around Coles Park. I'm unsure what the authorities do with the funds allocated for developing footpaths and bus shelters in this area," said Purushotham.

A resident, on the condition of anonymity, said that the authorities concerned have become apathetic towards infrastructure-related problems. "What do you expect from the authorities and elected representatives who allowed the contractor to install the name board with the wrong spelling? The name board reads the name of the board as Sounders Road instead of Saunders Road," said the resident. Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Pulakeshinagar) said that he would inform the Traffic Engineering Cell engineer to fix the problem. "I have received complaints about the condition of the bus shelter. I took the measures to remove silt from the drain along the Coles Park fence," he said.

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BBMP prioritises safety for Ganeshotsav

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike urges environmentally friendly Ganesh festival celebrations, prohibiting Plaster of Paris (POP) idols. The corporation, pollution control board, and police are to conduct surprise inspections of idol production units, seize POP idols, and impose penalties for violations, with legal action as needed. Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has instructed officials to prepare thoroughly for Ganesh Chaturthi within BBMP jurisdiction, highlighting the importance of precautionary measures and proper arrangements during a meeting at the Corporation's Central Office Hall-01.

"For Ganesh idol installations, permissions must be granted promptly through 63 sub-division offices, which should be equipped with dedicated centres for applications. BBMP, police, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), and fire department officials should be appointed quickly, and their details should be uploaded to the BBMP website. Necessary actions must be taken to ensure that permissions are granted within the stipulated time frame. Kalyanis near water bodies must be thoroughly cleaned, and staff should be assigned for Ganesh immersion. Additionally, arrangements should be made for barricading, CCTV, electrical islands, trained lifeguards, and cranes", the Chief Commissioner said.

Inspection and safety measures

BESCOM officials were directed to inspect electricity lines along immersion procession routes and implement safety measures to prevent accidents. It is essential that street lights on electricity poles are operational, and the BBMP must address and repair any road damage or potholes along these routes. "For safety and emergency response, ambulances should be positioned near the immersion sites, and health staff must be designated to provide first aid in case of emergencies. Fire brigade vehicles should be arranged as a precautionary measure to handle any fire-related incidents. Staff assigned to oversee the immersion activities at Kalyani near water bodies must adhere to a specific dress code. The police department is also tasked with deploying home guards to maintain order and prevent any unwanted incidents. Temporary mobile tanks should be established at strategic locations, to facilitate the immersion of Ganesh idols", Nath added.

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Branches removed

KR Puram

Following a report in BM about branches covering a transformer in KR Puram, BESCOM swiftly cleared the obstruction.

Garbage dump

JP Nagar

The dump yard near Sri Sai Academy in Kothanur Dinne, JP Nagar 8th Phase, remains uncleared.

Road woes

Bellary Main Road

The road opposite Gate No 4 of Gayathri Vihar Palace on Bellary Main Road is in poor condition.

All-women burglar gang

CRIME FILES

The Bagalgunte Police have arrested a 22-year-old woman, identified as Nilofer from DJ Halli, who led a gang of female burglars. Nilofer is said to have been disguised as a man to carry out the burglary. The gang also included two other women and a minor, who are at large.

The group is accused of stealing jewelry worth nearly ₹5 lakh. The police initiated an investigation after receiving a complaint, during which they learned that the minor had been responsible for entering the house and stealing 70 gm of gold ornaments.

Stolen valuables worth Rs 50 lakh

The Bommanahalli police arrested three individuals in connection with the theft of 674 grams of gold, 240 grams of silver items, and foreign currencies valued at ₹50 lakh.

Following a complaint, the police apprehended one of the suspects in Rajendranagar, Adugodi. During interrogation, the suspect confessed to the crime and the police recovered the stolen articles from a box near his residence. The accused also revealed he had given around 34 grams of the stolen gold ornaments to a relative and a friend.

Gold ornaments seized

The Jayanagar police have seized nearly 500 grams of gold ornaments, valued at approximately ₹30 lakh, across three separate cases.

In one case, a man was arrested in connection with a Girinagar police station complaint. During interrogation, he revealed information about an accomplice currently held in Erode Sub Jail, Tamil Nadu. Further investigation led to notices being sent to two other associates of the jailed accomplice. In RT Nagar, a girl was blackmailed by her boyfriend's friend, who threatened to expose her intimate photos unless she provided cash and jewellery. The girl stole these items from her home to comply. The accused was arrested, and authorities recovered gold bars (10 grams) from a shop in Jayanagar, as well as 54 grams of jewellery and 8 gold bars (200 grams) from a jewellery shop in Austin Town.

In the third case, police seized 100 grams of gold worth ₹6.7 lakh.

Drunk youth threatens ASI

During a late-night patrol by the Bandepalya Police on August 17, a man, identified as Sunil, who was allegedly inebriated, threatened police officers, verbally abused them, and threatened to file false charges. The incident occurred between 12.55 am and 1.45 am near SV Lake View Apartment.

The patrolling officers, led by Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) M Venkatesh, were responding to a tip from the Hoysala Control Room about suspicious activity near Somasundara Palya Park. Upon reaching the area, the officers encountered two young men and a young woman sitting on the steps of a party hall with liquor bottles and cigarette packs scattered around.

Concerned for the woman's safety, Venkatesh used the vehicle's loudspeaker to urge the group to return home. However, Sunil, became confrontational.

Traffic diversions for Janmashtami

In anticipation of the large crowds expected for the Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations at the ISKCON Temple in Malleshwaram on August 25 and 26, the Traffic Police have announced several traffic diversions and restrictions.

The diversions will primarily affect the West of Chord Road, where vehicles moving from the Soap Factory Junction towards the Mahalakshmi Metro Junction are advised to take an alternative route via Dr. Rajkumar Road.

Motorists are requested to turn right at 10th Cross Rajkumar Road or Kethamaranahalli Junction to reach Chord Road at 1st Block Signal, Rajajinagara.

Pick-up and drop-off of passengers by auto-rickshaws and cabs are restricted between the Soap Factory Junction and Mahalakshmi Metro Junction.

However, these services can operate between Mahalakshmi Metro and Soap Factory Junction for convenience of the passengers. —BMB

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K'taka's green areas eroded by development projects

Increased approvals for land diversion are raising alarms about biodiversity and forest cover impacts

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the past two years (June 2022 to August 2024), Karnataka has approved over a hundred projects requesting land diversion from forests, wildlife reserves, and other eco-sensitive areas.

According to data from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Parivesh portal, Karnataka approved 107 forest clearance projects, the highest among southern states. Kerala is second, with 89 projects approved during the same period.

The state has diverted 32,076.25 hectares of forest land for nearly 800 non-forestry projects under the Forest Conservation Act, of 1980. Last year, Karnataka added 2,892 hectares of forest area to its existing reserve of 40,64,930 hectares. However, just 21.21 per cent of the total geographical area is currently under forest cover.

Wildlife conservationists and researchers argue that the high rate of forest clearance contradicts the objectives of the wildlife and forest protection acts, which aim to shield these areas from human disturbances. They highlight the National Forest Policy of India, which recommends that at least 33 per cent of the total geographical area should be under forests to maintain ecological stability.

"It is worrisome that we continue to divert green patches for various non-forestry purposes regardless of low forest cover

"It is worrisome that we continue to divert green patches for various non-forestry purposes regardless of low forest cover. While development projects are also necessary, the government must consider an assessment of the carrying capacity of the forest areas of the state so environmental aspects can be weighed against development," said a city-based conservationist.

Data from the Karnataka Forest Department shows that 60.48 hectares were redirected for various projects in 2021-22, increasing to 89.61 hectares in 2022-23, and rising further to 134.31 hectares in 2023-24.

Ecologists say the focus should be on enhancing forest areas with native tree species.

"The department has taken up monoculture plantations in many forest areas, which would spell doom for local biodiversity. Apart from balancing development with ecological health, we must also understand the detrimental impact of non-scientific plantation activities. These cannot be equivalent to natural forests. Monoculture plantations will lead to minimal ecosystem services," said a researcher.

Yettinahole project hits milestone

Despite significant delays, the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project has recently achieved a major milestone by completing pre-commissioning tests of its lift works. This ambitious project seeks to combat water scarcity in drought-prone regions by lifting 24.01 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) of water from multiple sources in the Western Ghats, including Yettinahole, Kadumane Hole, Keri Hole, and Hongada Halla in Sakleshpur Taluk, Hassan District. The project plans to utilise 14.056 TMC of this water for direct supply and 9.953 TMC for groundwater recharge. This initiative will benefit approximately 75.59 lakh people across 6657 villages and 38 towns in seven districts, including Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Tumakuru, Ramanagar, and Bengaluru Rural.

Current status and plans

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, stated, "The project, with a total cost of Rs 23,251.66 crores, has reached a critical phase. The lift and power supply works of Stage 1, which began in 2014, have been completed despite numerous challenges. Water is being lifted from Weir-1, 4, and 5 to Delivery Chamber-3, and subsequently supplied to the Gravity Canal via Delivery Chamber-4. The Gravity Canal extends 252.61 km, with 42 km of work already completed. Due to forest and land acquisition delays, temporary water release to Vani Vilasa Sagar through Veda Valley is planned from the canal escape at 132.50 km."

Testing and implementation

Deputy CM announced that pre-commissioning tests began in November 2023, with water first supplied to Delivery Chamber-3 from Weir-4 and Weir-5. Recently, water from Weir-1 was pumped to Delivery Chamber-4 and successfully released into the Gravity Canal.

As of August 20, 2024, water has flowed from the Gravity Canal to Veda Valley, causing Halebidu and Belawadi lakes to overflow and directing water towards Vani Vilasa Sagar. Pre-commissioning tests for all weirs, except Weir-3, are expected to be completed by September 5, 2024. The project will then be officially launched and dedicated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

Financial progress and technological integration

DKS stated that the project has reached a cumulative financial progress of Rs 16,152.05 crores and is set for completion by March 31, 2027. In 2018, a telemetry system based on German technology was installed to monitor real-time water flow at eight weirs within the project's catchment area. During the current monsoon season, from June 1 to August 20, 13.34 TMC of water was recorded, including 9.23 TMC of divertible water. **BMB**

B'luru has a tobacco addiction problem

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and verify details before issuing the licence. Some bakeries, condiment shops, van shops, hotels, and restaurants in Bengaluru currently sell beedis and cigarettes.

However, under the COTPA Act of 2003, bakeries and condiment shops are prohibited from selling tobacco products, and therefore, licences will not be issued to them. The rules will also apply to shops and restaurants with more than 30 seats."

Enforcement of regulations

Sources said that vendors selling beedis, cigarettes, or gutka without BBMP's approval will face a fine of ₹5,000 for the first violation. Repeated offences will incur a daily fine of ₹100, and the vendor's trade licence may be revoked. The COTPA Act of 2003 requires all tobacco product vendors to obtain a licence, but some vendors continue to sell without one.

BBMP is now taking action to enforce compliance with these regulations. According to a senior BBMP official, licenses will only be granted to hotels and bars that have a designated smoking area in accordance with regulations.

Learn from the best

Bengaluru has a lot to learn from the tiny district of Udupi to curb its smoking habits. Udupi has taken an innovative approach to fighting tobacco addiction. The district has identified tobacco addicts and is providing them with de-addiction treatment. In addition, the district is felicitating those who have successfully quit tobacco use as 'tobacco champions'.

The de-addiction program in Udupi is comprehensive and includes counseling, medication, and support groups.

The programme is free of charge and is open to all addicts. The district has also launched a campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use.

The campaign includes public service announcements, billboards, and school-based programmes. The results have been promising. The number of tobacco addicts in the district has decreased significantly, and the rate of relapse has been low.

A senior official from the Bengaluru government said that the city is facing a serious problem with tobacco addiction. He said that the city has a high number of tobacco users, and that the rate of tobacco-related deaths is also high. The official said that the government is considering adopting a programme similar to the one in Udupi. He said that the government is committed to reducing the number of tobacco users in Bengaluru.

An official said, "Tobacco use is a major public health concern in India, with an estimated 13.5 lakh deaths every year, more than the number of covid-19 deaths. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 28.6% of Indian adults (above 15 years) are consuming one or the other form of tobacco products. Out of it, 42.4% are male and 14.2% female tobacco users.

Overall tobacco prevalence in India has come down from 34.6% to 28.6% from 2009-10 to 2016-17. Of these, 10.7% are smokers and 21.4% smokeless tobacco users.

Tobacco use is a major risk factor for a number of chronic diseases, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, and lung disease. It is also a leading cause of death in India. The economic burden of tobacco use in India is estimated to be around ₹1,77,341 crore (USD 27.5 billion) annually."

No breather for city's lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

diversion drains, no sewage entry, and good security systems to avoid theft. The department had also prepared an action plan and submitted it for approval.

This was expected to improve overall water quality and thus prevent fish kills, reduce algae growth, and speed up the decomposition process of organic matter. They are also expected to slow down algae growth by creating a non-stagnant environment due to continuous vertical mixing of water, thus improving the natural decomposition of organic matter.

City-based lake experts say a handful of aerator systems installed at some lakes in the city are not being maintained by the Palike. Moreover, the department must focus on bringing down the nutrient levels in city lakes.

"Algal growth is due to nutrient influx. The aerator can increase oxygen levels in lakes but will have minimal impact on the concentration of phosphate and nitrate compounds, mostly responsible for poor water quality. Moreover, some of the aerators installed at a couple of lakes by BBMP are lying defunct. It will be a costly project if the maintenance of these machines is taken into consideration," said V Pamprasad, founder, Friends of Lakes.

As per BBMP, each submerged aeration system would cost Rs 20 lakh. The number of aerators per lake would be calculated based on the size and overall water quality.

Sex-screening: HC drops case, orders fresh notice

Guidelines to act against violations of anti-prenatal sex determination law stay on paper: HC

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High Court directs government to ensure strict adherence to prenatal diagnostic guidelines

Karnataka High Court has observed that the guidelines for initiating action under the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, seem to exist only on paper, as none of them were followed while suspending the licence and filing a criminal case against a medical diagnostic centre for alleged violations.

The court emphasised, "Leaving loopholes in the law would only form a protective veneer for violators of the law, if any. The loopholes should not blur the intent behind the enactment and the rigour of the provisions of the Act." It directed the government to ensure strict adherence to the guidelines by the concerned authorities during inspections and registration of criminal cases under this law. Justice M Nagaprasanna highlighted that the health authorities had suspended the licence of a diagnostic centre and registered a criminal case against it before issuing a show-cause notice, which goes against the law and guidelines. These actions should be taken only after issuing a notice and considering the replies from the alleged violators.

The court quashed the criminal case against medical practitioner Subhalakshmi N, proprietor of Medizone Medical Centre in Bengaluru, and radiologist Moscow Mani SA, as well as the suspension of the medical centre's licence. However, it directed the authorities to issue a fresh notice, to which the petitioner-doctors must reply within a week, and granted the authorities the liberty to initiate fresh action, if necessary, after receiving the reply.

The court noted that the complaint alleged illegal prenatal sex determination of four pregnant women at the centre, who were between five and nine weeks of pregnancy, according to the seized records, and were referred by different doctors with prescriptions. The court acknowledged the importance of inspecting diagnostic centres to curb the growing cases of female foeticide due to illegal sex determination. However, it emphasised that such actions must be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the law, as not all diagnostic centres can be treated in the same manner.

HC quashes complaint on black magic involvement

HC has dismissed a complaint filed by a husband against his wife, alleging that she intended to kill him and his mother using black magic.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, in his observations, stated, "The order referring the matter for investigation should bear application of mind in order to nip frivolous cases being filed at their bud. A perusal of the order of reference would not indicate even a semblance of application of mind. A plain and simple marital discord is dressed with black magic, theft, and an attempt to murder. In the teeth of the aforesaid findings, if the proceedings against the petitioners are permitted to continue, it would become an abuse of the process of the law and result in patent injustice."

The case originated from a private complaint lodged by the husband on February 21, 2023. The wife's counsel contended that the husband's complaint was an abuse of legal process, arguing that the attempted murder charge lacked substance and the allegations were baseless. Conversely, the husband claimed to have discovered WhatsApp chats between his wife and her friend, in which they allegedly plotted to kill him and his mother using black magic. He maintained that these conversations warranted charges under the Black Magic Act and Section 307 of the IPC for attempted murder.

However, the Court stressed that an offence under the Act requires the actual "performing" of an inhuman or evil act. It was noted, "There is no act performed, nor is there an attempt to perform any of the ingredients of the Black Magic Act. The WhatsApp chats are completely vague." As a result, the court quashed the husband's prosecution under the Black Magic Act.

Study reveals urgent need for assistive tech in state

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A recent study published in the WHO South-East Asia Journal of Public Health has brought attention to the growing need for assistive technology (AT) in geriatric care, particularly in the coastal districts of Karnataka.

Assistive technologies, such as hearing aids, walking aids, prostheses, and spectacles, play a vital role in improving the quality of life for elderly individuals by enabling them to lead dignified and independent lives. Dr Edmond Fernandes, one of the lead researchers, emphasised the importance of these technologies in addressing the functional difficulties that often accompany aging. The study involved a comprehensive survey of 500 households, with equal representation from Mangaluru and Udupi and an average participant age of 34.3 years.

Key findings from the study reveal that 30.6% of participants reported using at least one assistive product, with 27.25% using one product and 3.3% using two or more. Alarmingly, the study found that a significant 89.53% of assistive products were sourced from the private sector, with only 4.07% coming from the public sector. The overwhelming majority (93.6%) of payments for these products were made out of pocket by the users or their families, highlighting the financial burden on individuals. Only 3.20% of payments were covered by government support, and a mere 0.87% came from NGOs or charities.

The study also assessed the need for AT across six domains of daily activities: mobility, seeing, hearing, communication, remembering, and self-care. It was found that 32.87% of participants reported some difficulty in these activities, while 5.31% reported severe difficulty, underscoring the increasing need for assistive technologies as individuals age. Additionally, 7.7% of participants reported unmet needs for assistive products, with spectacles, spinal orthoses, and therapeutic footwear being the most commonly needed but unavailable items.

The study's authors call for urgent policy interventions to address these issues. They advocate for public-private partnerships to reduce the financial burden on individuals and ensure wider access to essential assistive technologies.

Get your cloth bags for Rs 2

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre launched a cloth bag vending machine at the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) office on Friday. He stressed the need for alternative and affordable eco-friendly products.

Khandre asserted that research to find solutions based on innovative and modern technology to come up with environment-friendly products should be encouraged. He said that urgent action should be taken on the proposal sent to the Urban Development Department to allow the manufacture and sale of biodegradable plant-based polymer handbags or carry bags.

The machine has been developed by Green Recycle Plastic and will be installed in marketplaces in the city soon. The cost of each cloth bag is Rs 2, and it comes with an option for digital payment. The green bag has a weight capacity of 10 kg. —BMB

Mysuru Road emerges as top choice for property buyers

In recent years, Mysuru Road has transformed into one of Bengaluru's most sought-after locales for property buyers. Once a peripheral area, Mysuru Road has seen a surge in real estate activity, making it a preferred destination for both residential and commercial investments.

The road which connects Bengaluru to Mysuru offers excellent connectivity to key parts of the city, including Electronic City. The NICE Ring Road significantly reduces travel time, enhancing the area's accessibility. Furthermore, the proposed metro line extension, which will soon include Mysuru Road, is expected to boost property values and attract more buyers. "They not only make commuting easier but also increase the attractiveness of the area for residential and commercial investments," said Anand Kumar, a property developer.

Real estate developers are capitalising on the area's potential, introducing a range of projects from affordable housing to luxury apartments. This trend has been further fuelled by the area's competitive pricing compared to other central locations in Bengaluru. Sushil Jain, a property developer added, "The availability of land at relatively lower prices, combined with the promise of enhanced connectivity, makes it an attractive proposition for both investors and homebuyers. Our recent project launches here have been met with a great response, underscoring the area's growing appeal. From gated communities and high-rise apartments to commercial spaces and mixed-use developments, buyers have a wide range of options to choose from."

BMRCL is building a depot above an underpass that links Magadi Road with Mysuru Road

"Investors are also drawn to Mysuru Road for its potential appreciation in property values. As infrastructure projects progress and the area continues to develop, property prices are expected to rise, offering promising returns on investment. The area offers a blend of modern amenities and a serene environment, appealing to families and professionals alike. The presence of schools, hospitals, shopping centers, and recreational facilities adds to the area's attractiveness," said Ravi Shetty, another property developer.

Sangeeta Kumar, a resident of a newly developed apartment complex on Mysuru Road, added, "Living here has been wonderful. The area is developing rapidly, and we have access to all necessary amenities at our convenience."

-Prakash VL

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Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru's new favourite property destination

One of the favourable aspects of Kanakapura road is its proximity to prestigious educational institutions

Kanakapura Road, once considered a peripheral area of Bengaluru, has rapidly transformed into one of the most desirable locations for property investment. This transformation is fuelled by a plethora of factors including the establishment of numerous educational institutions, improved infrastructure, and enhanced connectivity, making it a prime spot for both residential and commercial properties.

Educational institutions demand

One of the primary reasons for Kanakapura Road's growing appeal is its proximity to several prestigious educational institutions. The area has become a hub for educational excellence with prominent institutions and various colleges and coaching centres setting up campuses along the road. This concentration of quality education facilities has made Kanakapura Road a preferred choice for families looking to invest in property close to schools and colleges.

"The presence of top-tier educational institutions has significantly boosted property demand in this area. Parents are keen on living close to their children's schools to reduce commute times and ensure better academic performance. Kanakapura Road also serves as an essential alternative route to Mysuru, easing travel for those commuting between these two cities. With the road's recent upgrades and the ongoing expansion projects, the connectivity between Bengaluru and Mysuru has improved, making it an attractive option for professionals and businesses. The convenience of this route has encouraged real estate developers to invest in residential projects along Kanakapura Road, catering to the growing number of people seeking a balance between work and leisure in a well-connected location," said Arjun Reddy, a property developer.

Infrastructure upgrades

The road itself has been widened and modernised, alleviating traffic congestion and making travel more efficient. Additionally, the implementation of new drainage systems, improved street lighting, and enhanced landscaping has contributed to a more pleasant living environment. Sandeep Kumar a property developer added, "Perhaps the most impactful change for Kanakapura Road has been the introduction of metro connectivity. The extension of Bengaluru's Namma Metro to Kanakapura Road has revolutionised commuting in the area. The metro line not only connects residents to key business districts and other important locations within Bengaluru but also provides an efficient mode of transportation."

BBMP makeover project on kanakapura road from Banakshankari

> **"The extension of Bengaluru's Namma Metro to Kanakapura Road has revolutionised commuting in the area**
>
> –Sandeep Kumar, property developer

Real estate market growth

As a result of these factors, the real estate market along Kanakapura Road has experienced remarkable growth. Property values have surged, and the area is now home to a variety of residential projects, including luxury apartments, gated communities, and affordable housing options. Real estate agents report a steady increase in inquiries and transactions, with both investors and homebuyers eager to capitalise on the area's growth potential.

"Kanakapura Road offers a blend of modern amenities, excellent connectivity, and quality education. It's a compelling choice for anyone looking to invest in Bengaluru's real estate market. With its array of educational institutions, improved infrastructure, alternative route to Mysuru, and metro connectivity, the area has become an attractive destination for property buyers and investors. As development continues and more amenities are introduced, Kanakapura Road is poised to become an even more sought-after location, promising long-term value and vibrant community living for residential and commercial purposes," said Priya Gowda, a property developer.

–Prakash VL

 # IIFA award hosts
Superstar Shah Rukh Khan and filmmaker Karan Johar will be the hosts for the upcoming International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2024, to be held next month in Abu Dhabi

Bit of a stretch, but just laugh it out

Powder has generated a lot of curiosity among movie buffs because it is helmed by Janardhan Chikkanna, who earned fame for the film Gultoo that was released in 2018. Powder has an ensemble cast known for its ability to tickle audiences' funny bones.

The actors have tried their best to entertain the audiences with characters such as Gopal Krishna Deshpande as Dr Suleman who suffers from piles, Sharmiela Mandre as Makeup Mallika who knows karate and looks good in action scenes, Rangayana Raghu as Annache who is an agent in India for a Chinese drug dealer, and Ravishankar Gowda as Pawan, a prospective bridegroom who continues his search for a suitable girl even after getting rejected by 99 prospective brides. However, the movie falls short of expectations. It gains momentum only in the post-intermission session. The climax is a little bit lengthy. The movie would have been better had the director reduced the runtime by 10 or 15 minutes.

POWDER
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Janardhan Chikkanna
- **ACTORS** Diganth, Sharmiela Mandre, Dhanya Ramkumar, Rangayana Raghu, Anirudh Acharya
- **Duration** 131 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Powder begins with a voice over by Navarasa Nayaka Jaggesh. The opening scene is of a group of people gathered in a room lit up by candles as there is no electricity. The next scene is a flashback showing how they came to be in the room. The movie is about Surya (Diganth) and Karan (Anirudh Acharya) who share an accommodation. Surya works at a departmental store and falls in love with Nithya (Dhanya Ramkumar), a nurse who visits the store every Friday to shop. Annache (Rangayana Raghu) works as an agent for a Chinese drug peddler who sends the contraband in a powder consignment. Surya, Karan, and Nithya come to know about this and want in on it too but Makeup Mallika (Sharmiela Mandre), an assassin for the dealer, chases them. What happens to the lot is what the movie is about.

Diganth and Dhanya Ramkumar have acted well. Rangayana Raghu is funny; Sharmiela Mandre, Anirudh Acharya, Gopal Krishna Deshpande and Ravishankar Gowda are good support.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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All that glitters
Sandalwood actress Rachita Ram at the launch of gold shopping festival, in Bengaluru, on Friday

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I, Viswanatha S/o Amare Gowda R/o Nera Iswar Temple, Toranadinni, Manvi, Raichur-584120 have changed my name to Vishwanath for all purposes.

I, GLADY MARCELL CHRIST alias GLADY VASANTHA PRIYA S alias GLADY S alias Glady Samuel Sampath D/o SAMUEL SAMPATH residing at 53, 7th A Main, Hoysala Nagara, Ramamurthy nagar, TC Palya, Bangalore north, Bangalore, Karnataka, 560016, India, changed my name to GLADY PRIYA SAMUEL for all purposes

I, Manjunath. HR R/O No 100, Lahari, 6th Main Postal Colony, Sanjaynagar, Blr-94 changed my name from Manjunatha. HR to Manjunath. HR for all future purposes

I, Rajeena Kanakancheri W/o. Abdul Rahiman R/at No.26, H Colony, Indiranagar 1st Stage, 1st Main, Indiranagar Post, B'luru-560038 have changed my name from Rajeena Kanakkancheri to Rajeena Kanakancheri vide Affidavit dtd 14/08/2024 Notary Uday Kumar K.

I, Suchitha Rai M w/o Rajesh Shetty R/o Kuvettu Vill, Guruvayankere Po, Belthangady Tq, Dakshina kannada 574217 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Suchitha R Shetty Affidavit Dt.23/08/2024 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Siddiq Ahamed Basheer, S/o Basheer Ahmed K, R/o No. 429, 10th Cross, Near Norani Masjid, Ilyas Nagar, J P Nagar, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name to Siddiq Ahmed B for all purposes.

I, Wayne Edward Bento, S/o Glenda Bento, R/O no. 203, Sabnis Royale, Green Hill, Porvorim, Goa - 403501, have changed my name from Wayne Edward Gidwani to Wayne Edward Bento for all purposes

I Chiranjivee B V S/o Vasudeva B H R/o No 70/4 5th Cross Mysore Rd Byatarayana Pura,Government Electric Fact -ory Bengaluru-26 have chan - ged my name to Chiranjeevi B V for all purposes

I, Uthpala Hegde R/O Flat No 120, SLV Sapphire Apartment, Abbigere main road, Blr-90 changed my name from Uthpala to Uthpala Hegde for all future purposes

I Mehar Taj D/O, Syed Azeem R/o 468 Thanisandra Near Usman E Ghani Mosque Dr Skn Post Bangalore 560077 have changed my name to Meher Taj.

I, Suhas Ramdev R/o Kamala 125 6th Cross Panduranganagar Bannerghatta Road Bengaluru - 560076 have changed my minor daughter's name from Viyona to Viyona Suhas.

GALLERIA

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AMRITSAR VAISHNODEVI SRINAGAR 15 DAYS
Sept: 13, 20 Oct: 4, 11, 13, 25 Nov: 1, 8

ASSAM MEGHALAYA/ARUNACHAL PRADESH* 13/19* DAYS
Nov: 1, 8, 15, 22 Dec: 6, 13

AGRA MATHURA JAIPUR NEW DELHI 11 DAYS
Oct: 11 Nov: 15 Dec: 6

KASHMIR WINTER SPECIAL 6 DAYS Nov: 16, 21, 26

KASHI AYODHYA PRAYAG GAYA/HARIDWAR* 11/16* DAYS
Sept: 5, 13*, 20, 20*, 26, 27* Oct: 4, 4*, 11*, 18*, 24, 25*

EGYPT 9 DAYS. Nov: 6

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GET NOTICED

Nelamangala-Tumakuru road to fuel property rise

This project represents Bengaluru's third 10-lane expressway, following the Bengaluru-Nelamangala and Bengaluru-Mysuru highways

Phase 1 of the Bengaluru-Tumakuru highway is set for completion by August 25, 2025. This ambitious six-laning project spans from Nelamangala to Tumkur, including the Tumkur Bypass (from km 29.5 to km 75) on NH4. The project was awarded on February 11, 2021, with a sanctioned budget of Rs 2,032.15 crore. Work began on May 25, 2022, and progress on the 44.733 km stretch has reached 9.4 km. The updated timeline now targets August 25, 2025, with an expenditure of Rs 540.6 crore.

According to a National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) official, "The construction of the six-laning project from Nelamangala to Tumkur, including the Tumkur Bypass from km 29.500 to km 75.000 on National Highway (NH) - 48, is divided into two phases. The first phase focusses on building the service road, while the second phase involves constructing the main carriageway."

This project represents Bengaluru's third 10-lane expressway, following the Bengaluru-Nelamangala and Bengaluru-Mysuru highways. The goal is to upgrade the existing Nelamangala-Tumakuru national highway from its current four-lane configuration to a 10-lane highway stretching 44.04 km, with an estimated cost of Rs 844 crore. Scheduled for completion in three years, this development is expected to greatly benefit the Sompura industrial area and improve connectivity to Kempegowda International Airport. As part of the Bharatmala initiative, the project will feature a six-lane expressway with a four-lane service road on each side, fostering growth in both industry and residential areas. The Sompura industrial area, which houses over 500 industries, will see further enhancements. Additional features include the construction of retaining walls, 17 flyovers including railway overbridges, and the planting of 600 trees along the highway for environmental sustainability.

This project is expected to be finished by August 2025 at Rs 540.6 crore

This highway project, in conjunction with the Bengaluru Satellite Ring Road initiative, will position Nelamangala, Doddaballapur, and Devanahalli as key satellite towns of Bengaluru. These developments, along with other corridors, are set to transform these areas into major urban centres, with a comprehensive master plan.

Anitha D, a property consultant said, "This improved connectivity is anticipated to make the surrounding areas, particularly Nelamangala, Doddaballapur, and Devanahalli, highly attractive for real estate investment. With the planned infrastructure upgrades, including six lanes for the expressway and four-lane service roads, the project will alleviate traffic congestion and facilitate smoother commutes. This will encourage both residential and commercial developments in the vicinity. The Sompura industrial area, already home to over 500 industries, is likely to see increased industrial and commercial activity, further driving demand for residential properties."

The establishment of retaining walls, flyovers, and environmental measures will further boost the region's appeal. As a result, property values in these expanding satellite towns are expected to rise, attracting investors and developers eager to capitalize on the burgeoning growth opportunities. **-Prakash VL**

Resilient housing market in B'luru

Positive trends in affordability and price adjustments attracts homebuyers amid changing economic landscape

Bengaluru has shown significant improvements in housing affordability. According to Knight Frank India's recent Affordability Index report for the first half of 2024, home affordability has remained steady due to stable interest rates since late 2023. Among the top eight cities, Ahmedabad is noted as the most affordable housing market with a ratio of 21%, followed closely by Pune and Kolkata, both at 24%. Mumbai remains the only city above the affordability threshold, with a ratio of 51%.

In Bengaluru, the Affordability Index improved notably, reflecting a positive shift in housing market dynamics. As of the first half of 2024, Bengaluru's affordability level has seen a significant increase, moving from 32% in 2019 to a more favorable position. This improvement is attributed to steady interest rates and controlled property price increases.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, emphasised, "Stable affordability is crucial for maintaining homebuyer demand and sales momentum, which is a key economic driver. As income levels rise and economic growth remains strong, buyers' financial confidence is bolstered, encouraging long-term investments in property. With the RBI projecting a healthy 7.2% GDP growth for FY 2025 and a stable interest rate outlook, affordability is expected to continue supporting homebuyer demand throughout 2024."

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the residential real estate market, leading to adjustments in property prices and lending rates that boosted demand. This momentum has continued, supported by effective inflation control and robust economic growth.

Sales volumes have been strong, leading to price increases across markets. In 2024, Bengaluru saw a 9% year-on-year increase in prices, while Mumbai, NCR, and Pune experienced a 4% growth each. Chennai and Hyderabad saw increases of 5% year-on-year. This marks the fifth consecutive half-yearly period of price growth across all major markets.

Home affordability has remained steady due to stable interest rates since late 2023

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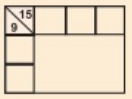
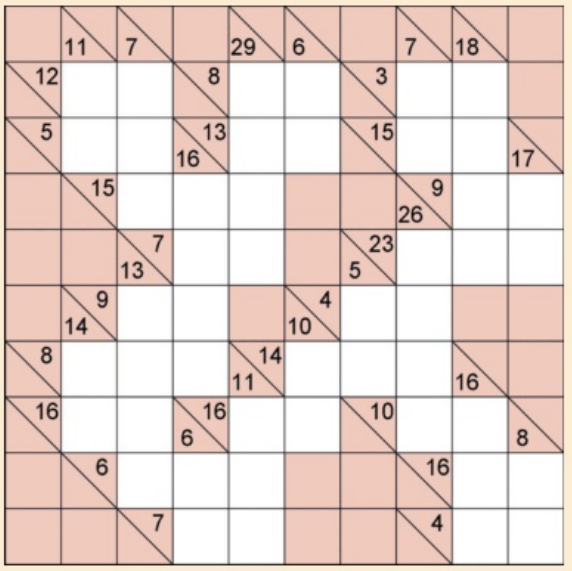
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

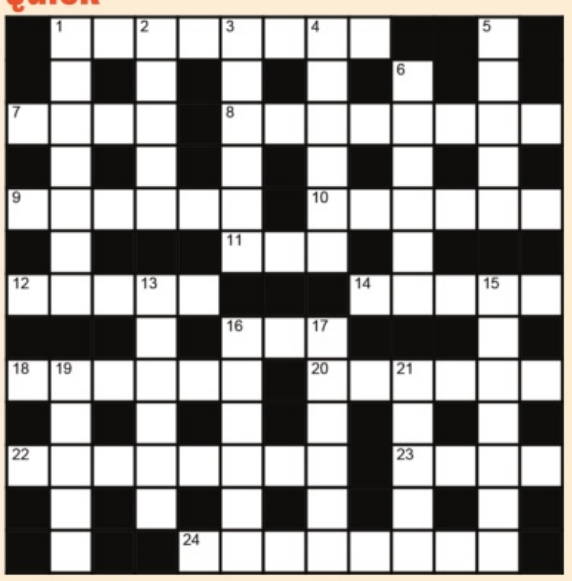


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Care or treatment of the feet (8)
7 Chamarajpet has a church dedicated to this saint (4)
8 Passages or selections from (8)
9 Forbidden fruit (6)
10 Injured slightly? (6)
11 A little work (3)
12 Condiment container (5)
14 Marshal (5)
16 Church bench (3)
18 Strikes heavily (6)
20 Salary (6)
22 Lens opening (8)
23 Part of speech (4)
24 Pudding made from cake rolls (4-4)

DOWN

1 More fat or chubby (7)
2 Reside (5)
3 Mousetrap bait? (6)
4 Formula One sport (6)
5 Supple (5)
6 Food retailer (6)
13 Urge or admonish earnestly (6)
15 Arsenal (7)
16 Sham (6)
17 Sagaciously (6)
19 Scandalise (5)
21 Division of poem (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS G

BGSJS'P DK MSIJDEDA VEBG-KOB BJTEDA MKBP KU EHSIP IDH UIEMEDA MKBP KU BEXSP.

Linemaro

My heart is broken... could you fix it for me?

Mindchow

Never try to dominate those who say sorry to you for their mistake, because they understand that you are more important than their ego

Joke of the day

Interviewer: Everything on your resume was a lie. I like that. Welcome to sales department!

Loop

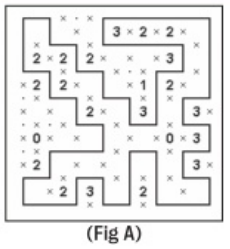
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

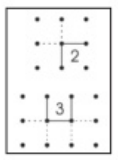
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

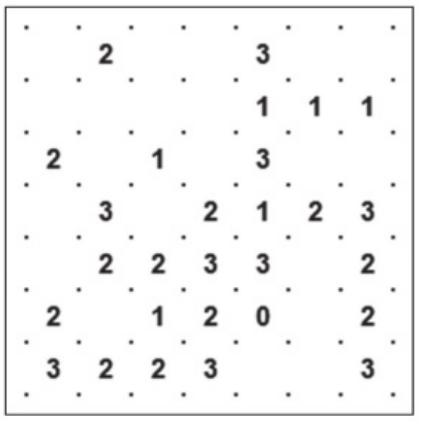
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



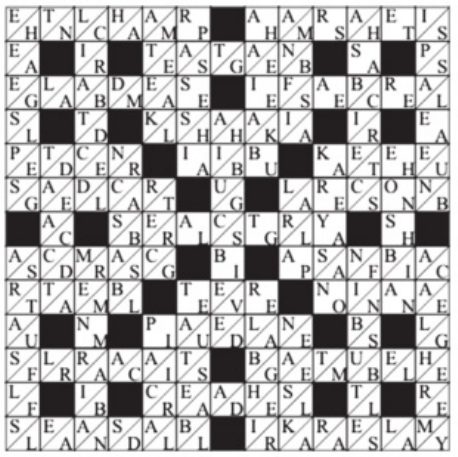
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



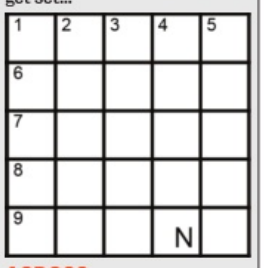
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

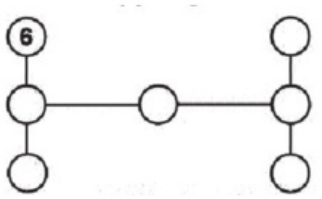
1 Ma Mam; 6 Booes;
7 I lost; 8 Other;
9 Meson

DOWN

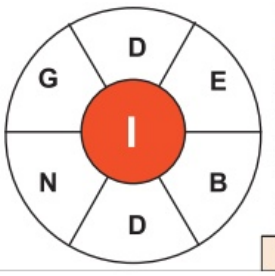
1 To tom; 2 Bah mo;
3 I Rome; 4 Lemon;
5 SS Sea

Mensapuzzle

Using 7 digits from 1 to 9 once and only once each, place them in the circles in such a way that the products of the 3 numbers of each line are all the same? We'll give you a head start by placing one number.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5					4		9
3	4			7	6	5	8	
	2			5				
1			5	4				
				6	2			7
				3			1	
	3	5	9	1			4	6
9		2					7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8

2 2 3 6

Medium = 24

1 3 3 5

Hard = 9

3 4 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Newspaper is smaller. 2. Shoulder strap is different. 3. Thumb is moved. 4. Curler is missing. 5. Back of chair is different. 6. Cup handle is different.

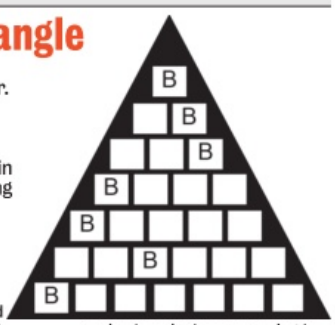
Riddler

A 3-letter word has been taken out of each of the following words. Can you figure it out?

S _ _ _ _ _ _ AL MA _ _ _ RE _ _ _ LE

Alpha triangle

1 Second grade
2 Able-bodied , abbr.
3 Keyboard key
4 Cop's route
5 Sheep cry
6 Physicist _ Einstein
7 Large fatty herring

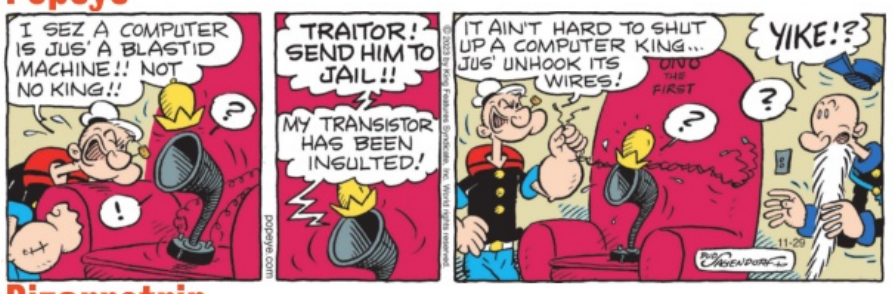


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


I SEZ A COMPUTER IS JUS' A BLASTID MACHINE!! NOT NO KING!!
TRAITOR! SEND HIM TO JAIL!!
MY TRANSISTOR HAS BEEN INSULTED!
IT AIN'T HARD TO SHUT UP A COMPUTER KING... JUS' UNHOOK ITS WIRES!
OLIVO THE FIRST
YIKE!?
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

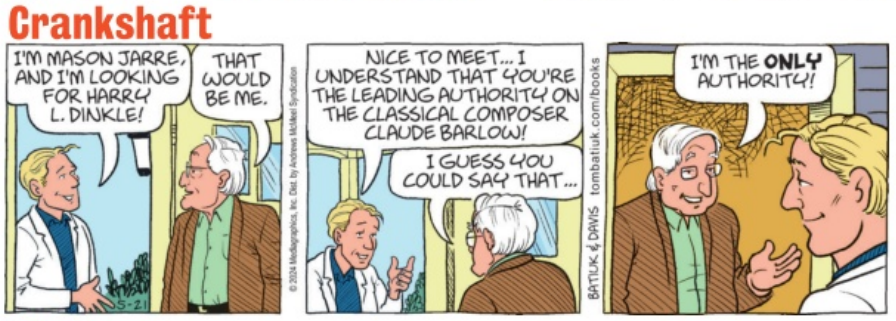
What it lacks in fuel economy it more than makes up for in manifesting your feelings of inadequacy.
BIZARRO.COM ©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS Dist. by King Features
Wayno & Piraro 5-21-24

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY DRESS REHEARSAL TIME. AND TO THINK THERE WAS A MOMENT WHEN I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT SPONGEBOB.
I'VE REWATCHED EVERY EPISODE, AND IT MIGHT BE THE LAST PLAY I'LL EVER DO.
HMMM...
DID YOU KNOW HEART IS THINKING OF QUITTING THEATER?
WHAT?! I DIDN'T SEE THAT IN THE RUMOR MILL APP AT ALL!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


I'M MASON JARRE, AND I'M LOOKING FOR HARRY L. DINKLE!
THAT WOULD BE ME.
NICE TO MEET... I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON THE CLASSICAL COMPOSER CLAUDE BARLOW!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT...
I'M THE ONLY AUTHORITY!
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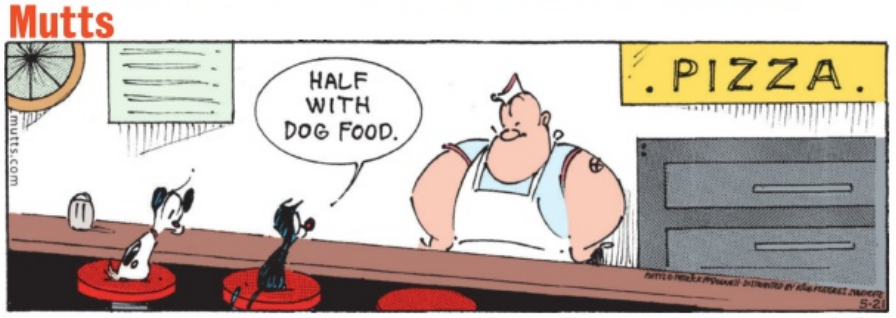
Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be more enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good, it may boost your bond with seniors, and you may be likely to get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may also hear good news in legal matters. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be able to complete difficult tasks very easily, which may boost your confidence level. Your past investments may have yielded good gains. You may have control over unexpected expenses. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; it may waste your precious time.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is not a good day. You may feel unhappy, or you may be dissatisfied with your current situation. You are advised to keep your patience and not to take any decisions in a hurry. You are also advised to take care of your parents.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may make decisions very quickly, which may have benefits in your day-to-day life. You may make some difficult decisions with the help of your colleagues, and you may be likely to achieve success easily. Property-related disputes between siblings are likely to be resolved. You may also expect some short trips.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness; your loose talk may affect people around you. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying some worthless stuff. Your mind may likely work very fast, so it is advised to make any important decision with patience.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon; the last couple of days of disappointment may now convert into happiness. You may enjoy your professional and personal lives. Your network may help you complete your postponed projects. You may likely start some new venture with the help of your siblings, and your network may support you in every step.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be busy at work. Your focus on your goals and dedication to work may be tested many times. However, your patience may help you achieve your goals on time. You are also likely to get some rewards as a result of your hard work. You may also be likely to make investments in fixed assets.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your destiny may help you achieve success in an easy way. You may likely visit some religious place to seek peace in your mind. You may spend your time earning some intellectual or occult knowledge. Students may do better. Singles are likely to find a good match. Lovebirds may make some important decisions in terms of marriage.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy at work. With the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you gain profits from past investments. You may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed work. There are some gains in your business that may boost your finances.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. You are likely to face losses in the business, and your gains may likely be converted into losses.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will be happy. You may feel peace in your mind. Your focus on your goals would be very good. You may spend some romantic moments with your spouse, and your bonding with your spouse may be stronger now. You will also be busy with other domestic issues.

KIDZONE

Sanjanna V, 6 Years, DRDO Kg School

Aishwaraya Christy, 6 Years, Vinayaka Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
10 + 125-(2+16-10) x (11-9)^3 =
10 + 125-(18-10) x (2)^3 =
135 - 8 x 8 =
135 - 64 = 71

BULL'S EYE
BEDDING, begin, being, bidden, bide, bided, bind, binge, deign, dined, dine, dined, ding, gibe

QUOTE UNCODE
There's no learning without trying lots of ideas and failing lots of times.

FAST FIVE

O	M	E	N	S
T	H	R	O	E
O	B	O	E	S
T	O	I	L	S
M	A	M	M	A

STRIKE OUT

S	A	N	D	A	L		R	
F	I		C	E	D	E	S	
F	R	A	C	A	S		G	A
U	M		P	A	E	A	N	
S	C	R	A	G		I		P
	C		B	E	A	S	T	
S	A	D	A	T		U		A
E	D	E	N		A	B	U	
L	T		K	H	A	K	I	
G	L	A	D	E	S		I	S
A	R		E	A	G	A	N	

QUICK

								L
								A
								M
								L
								E
								C
								A
								E
								C
								B
								P
								X
								R
								T
								E
								L
								L

MENSA PUZZLE
Here is one of the answer. As you can see some of the digits can be flipped to still get a correct answer.
Cab, Scab, Cabal, Macabre & Cable.

RIDDLER

9	1	2	6	8	4	3	7	5
8	3	5	9	1	7	2	4	6
4	7	6	2	3	5	9	1	8
5	8	4	3	6	2	1	9	7
2	6	3	7	9	1	8	5	4
1	9	7	5	4	8	6	2	3
6	2	8	4	5	9	7	3	1
3	4	9	1	7	6	5	8	2
7	5	1	8	2	3	4	6	9

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE
B, AB, Tab,
Beat, Bleat,
Albert, Bloater.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 - 2 x 6 + 2 = 8
Medium
5 + 3 x 1 x 3 = 24
Hard
4 x 3 - 7 + 4 = 9

LOOP

KAKURO

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